

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A connection assembly (5) comprising a plurality of first elongate elements (2) and a plurality of second elongate elements (3) forming a grid structure (1) connected to one another at an intersection (4), the first element (2) comprising a tube and defining at least one receiving opening (6) through which the second element (3) is passed, and characterised in that the portion of the first element (2) defining the periphery of the receiving opening (6) protrudes inwards into the tube to define a collar (7) surrounding the second element (3), and the first and second elements are connected with a bond or a weld.

2. (Previously presented) The assembly (5) as claimed in Claim 1, characterised in that the first element (2) defines two aligned receiving openings (6) through which the second element (3) is passed, the portions of the first element (2) defining the peripheries of both of the receiving openings (6) protruding inwards into the tube to define two collars (7) surrounding the second element (3).

3. (Previously presented) The assembly (5) as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 2, characterised in that an inner dimension of each collar (7) is dimensioned with respect to an outer dimension of the second element (3) so as to provide a frictional fit of the two elements (2, 3).

4. (Currently Amended) The assembly (5) as claimed in Claim 1, characterised in that the first element (2) has been drilled to define the receiving opening (6), the diameter (D2) of the drilled ~~aperture~~ opening (11) being less than the diameter (d2) of the second elongate element (3).

5. (Previously presented) The assembly (5) as claimed in Claim 4, characterised in that the drilled aperture (11) was punched to deform the periphery of the aperture (11) so that it is folded inwards into the tube to form the collar (7) and to increase the diameter (D2) of the aperture (11) to that (D3) of the receiving opening (6).

Appl. No. : **10/800391**
Filed : **March 12, 2004**

6. (Currently Amended) The assembly (5) as claimed in Claim 1, characterised in that the inner surface of the first element (2) is provided with at least one ridge (9), the apex of which lies close to or contacts the outer surface of the second element (3) at a position (P1).

7. (Previously presented) The assembly (5) as claimed in Claim 1 or 6, characterised in that the first and second elongate elements (2, 3) are connected to one another at one or more positions (P1) in the region of their intersection (4).

8. (Currently Amended) The assembly (5) as claimed in Claim 7 when dependent on Claim 6, characterised in that ~~a connection~~ the position (P1) is formed where the outer surface of the second element (3) lies opposed to the inner surface of the first element (2) at the apex of the ridge (9).

9. (Currently Amended) The assembly (5) as claimed in Claim 7, characterised in that the first and second elongate elements (2, 3) are made of metal and are connected to one another at said one or more positions (P1) by welding.

10. (Previously presented) The assembly (5) as claimed in Claim 7, characterised in that the first and second elongate elements (2, 3) are made of a plastics material and are connected at said one or more positions (P1) by ultrasonic welding, induction welding or melt bonding.

11. (Currently Amended) The assembly (5) as claimed in Claim 1, characterised in that the first elongate element (2) ~~is tubular with~~ has a substantially circular, elliptical or ovoid cross-section.

12. (Previously presented) The assembly (5) as claimed in Claim 1, characterised in that the second elongate element (3) is tubular with a substantially circular or oval cross-section.

Appl. No. : **10/800391**
Filed : **March 12, 2004**

13. (Previously presented) The assembly (5) as claimed in Claim 1, characterised in that the diameter (d2) of the second element (3) is smaller by between 20% to 30% than the diameter (d1) of the first element (2).

14. (Canceled)